(c) whether the World Bank has agreed to provide financial assistance to Tamil Nadu for the said purpose, and

(d) if so, by when the financial assistance is likely to be provided.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) to (c) Government of Tamil Nadu has sought assistance of World Bank for upgrading the State road network to manage the growing traffic intensity besides reconstructing and rehabilitating the distressed bridges and culverts. The estimated cost of the project is about Rs. 880 crores. The exact amount of World Bank funding may be known only after the components to be included in the project are identified on completion of strategic option study.

(d) It is too early to indicate the time at this stage.

Appointment of agents by SCI

4686. SHRI P. UPENDRA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of agents appointed by the Shipping Corporation of India all over the country and the details thereof;

(b) what are the guidelines the Corporation has fixed for appointment of these agents, and since when these agents have been operating at various ports;

(c) whether there is any proposal to appoint additional agents for any of the ports, in view of the increased exports and imports, and to encourage young entrepreneurs; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) The Shipping Corporation of India has appointed 10 agents at various Indian ports, viz. Gujarat, Karwar, Jawahar Lal Nehru Port, Pondicherry, Mangalore, Cochin, Kakinada, Nagapattnam, Masulipatnam, Allepey, Quilon, Tuticorin, Calicut, Tellicharry, Rameshwaram, Vizag & Cuddalore. Besides, SCI has also appointed agents at some Inland Container Depots (ICDs).

(b) SCI contacts some reputable agency houses for the appointment of agents. The factors which are considered for appointment as agents are sound financial position professional expertise, experience, cargo generating/handling capacity, manpower, availability of physical infrastructure, etc. The existing 10 agents were appointed by SCI from time to time since 1961.

(c) and (d) The appointment of agents by SCI is a continuous process, depending on the trade-patterns.

Letters written by M.Ps to the Ministry of Surface Transport

4687. SHRI MOHAMMAD AFZAL alias MEEM AFZAL: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of letters written by the Members of Parliament to the Ministry during the period from 1st April, 1994 to 31st March, 1995;

(b) what is the number of letters acknowledged out of them;

(c) what is the number of letters in respect of which final replies were sent; and

(d) what is the break-up of final letters issued by the Ministry containing positive and negative replies, respectively?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) The number of letters received in this Ministry during the said period is 781.

(b) 718.

(c) 611.

(d) All these letters were replied on factual information and in accordance with existing policy, rules and regulations. References generally related to more than one issue. In view of this, it is difficult to categorise the replies as positive| negative.

"बिल्ड, आपरेट एण्ड ट्रांसफर" आधार पर सड़क परिवहन का निजीकरण

4688. **श्री अनन्तराम जायसवाल :**
श्री सत्य प्रकाश मालवीय :

क्या **जल-भूतल परिवहन** मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि सरकार ने "बिल्ड, आपरेट एण्ड ट्रांसफर" नाम से सड़क परिवहन के निजीकरण के लिए एक योजना तैयार की है ;

(ख) क्या यह भी सच है कि इस योजना के क्रियान्वयन से संबंधित कार्य में विदेशी कम्पनियों को भी शामिल किया जायेगा ; और

(ग) उक्त योजना पर कितनी लागत आयेगी और विदेशी कंपनियों सहित निजी-क्षेत्र अपने पूंजी निवेश की धनराशि को कैसे वसूल करेगा और क्या आम व्यक्ति को उक्त योजना के अधीन सड़कों का प्रयोग करने के लिए कर के रूप में किसी भार को भी उठाना पड़ेगा ?

जल-भूतल परिवहन मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री जगदीश टाइटलर) : (क) से (ग) सरकार निर्माण, प्रचालन और हस्तान्तरण आधार पर सड़क निर्माण कार्यों में निजी क्षेत्र तथा विदेशी निवेशकों को शामिल करने पर विचार कर रही है। इस स्कीम के अन्तर्गत, निजी कंपनियों को अपने संसाधनों से राजमार्ग सुविधा का विकास करने तथा एक निर्दिष्ट अवधि के लिए प्रयोक्ताओं से शुल्क वसूल करने की अनुमति दी जाएगी और उसके पश्चात् वह सुविधा सरकार को वापस मिल जाएगी। चूंकि राष्ट्रीय राजमार्ग अधिनियम, 1956 में अभी संशोधन नहीं हुआ है इसलिए इस संबंध में और ब्यौरे दे पाना संभव नहीं है।

Traffic survey between Ahmedabad-Rajkot-Gandhidham

4689. SHRI GOPALSINH G. SOLANKI: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any traffic survey has been conducted between Ahmedabad-Rajkot and Rajkot-Gandhidham (Kandla) National Highway No. 8;

(b) if so, the details thereof?

(c) whether there has been delay in implementing the findings of survey report; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) and (b) No specific traffic survey has been conducted between Ahmedabad-Rajkot and Rojkot-Gandhidham sections of National Highways in Gujarat. However, weekly traffic census at selected count stations on all National Highways is carried out twice a year.

(c) and (d) Question does not arise.

Backlog in the National Highway Projects

4690. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are any proposals to amend the National Highways Act and if so, what would be the quantum of initial investment on priority routes;